



Shown left to right are Claude M. Bolton Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology; Dr. William (Bill) McCorkle, Director, Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center; Dr. Zita M. Simutis, Acting Director, U.S. Army Research Institute for Behavioral and Social Sciences; Dr. James (Jim) R. Houston, Director, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center; and Dr. A. Michael Andrews II, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology.

2002 ARMY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Joseph E. Flesch

Introduction

Since 1975, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT) has presented annual Research and Development Laboratory (RDL) of the Year Awards to Army organizations in recognition of outstanding technical and managerial programs implemented during the preceding fiscal year. Specifically, RDL Awards recognize the best research and development (R&D) programs and best-managed organizations that enhance the capability and readiness of Army operational forces and the national defense and welfare of the United States.

ASAALT Claude M. Bolton Jr. hosted the latest RDL Award ceremony held Dec. 2, 2002, during the Army Science Conference in Orlando, FL. He also delivered brief remarks, stating that during the past 3 years, the Army has been implementing a vision to become more strategically responsive and dominant across the spectrum of operations. Bolton noted that the Army is making smart investments, and the number one investment priority is the development of the Future Combat Systems and the enabling technologies necessary to achieve the Objective Force in

this decade. He added that the Interim Force will help get us there, but it is the Objective Force that will guarantee the unquestioned, long-term military superiority of the United States. According to Bolton, this underscores the importance of Army laboratories in making the Objective Force a reality. Work conducted in Army labs will have a large role in determining the future of the U.S. Army, and teamwork is imperative. Bolton said that the Army faces tremendous challenges to develop and field an Objective Force by the end of the decade, but it can be accomplished with the support of Congress and with the help of great minds from Army research laboratories, American universities, and private industry working as a team. Bolton believes that the Army has the finest managers, scientists, and engineers in the world working for our future warfighters on this great endeavor. The organizations judged the best of the best for 2001 were honored with 2002 RDL Awards.

The selected laboratories demonstrate a commitment to excellence both in their technical programs and in the management of their organizations. Recipients were selected by an evaluation committee chaired by Dr.

John A. Parmentola, Special Assistant for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology, Office of the ASAALT. Committee members were highly qualified individuals from the Army and DOD science and technology communities. The group evaluated both written nominations submitted through each organization's major command and verbal presentations from each organization's commander or director. Laboratory rankings were based on accomplishments and impacts; organizational vision, strategy, and plans; resource management; and continuous improvement.

Based on the review of accomplishments, the evaluation committee selected two 2002 award recipients, one in the Large Laboratory Category (600 employees or more) and one in the Small Laboratory Category (less than 600 employees). Additionally, the evaluation committee selected one large laboratory for a 2002 RDL Excellence Award in recognition of FY01 research accomplishments.

Large Lab Of The Year

The winner of the 2002 RDL of the Year Award—Large Laboratory Category is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and

Development Center (ERDC), headquartered in Vicksburg, MS.

Of its many outstanding technical accomplishments in FY01, ERDC was especially recognized for conducting breakthrough research on the physics of blast/structure interaction and for developing a physics-based computational model for simulating the interaction of blast waves with complex structures. This allows accurate analysis of the vulnerability of buildings to terrorist threats and the development of countermeasures to retrofit buildings to defeat the threat. The technology is being used to fast-track analyses to retrofit the Pentagon, embassies around the world, and other federal facilities. The resulting application of these anti-terrorism techniques to the renovated wedge of the Pentagon hit by the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack is credited with saving hundreds of lives. John Yates, Civilian Security Manager of the Pentagon, who survived the attack and appeared on the *60 Minutes II* show, "The Miracle of the Pentagon," which aired Nov. 28, 2001, stated, "It's a testament to the work the people in the renovation did and to the engineers. If it hadn't been done, if there had been no structural hardening, I can't imagine what the death and destruction would be. It would have been more catastrophic than what it is, ten times, a hundred times worse ... I don't ask why anymore; I just say thank you."

ERDC was also recognized for outstanding management performance in 2001 for its investment in and implementation of communications technologies that enable a virtual organization. This provides enabling communications technology allowing its employees at disparate geographic locations to work together in support and performance of research. They integrated technologies such as video teleconferencing, high-speed networking, shared applications, and the Internet in support of virtual operations. By implementing

this enhanced collaborative infrastructure, ERDC can rapidly leverage its widespread resources and those of other government agencies, academia, and industry to rapidly deliver solutions to crises anywhere in the world.

Small Lab Of The Year

The winner of the 2002 RDL of the Year Award—Small Laboratory Category was the U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (ARI), Alexandria, VA. ARI's mission is to maximize individual and unit performance and readiness to meet the full range of worldwide Army missions through advances in the behavioral and social sciences. ARI is the primary Army laboratory that focuses on the human dimension of warfighting—soldiers.

Of ARI's many technical accomplishments in 2001, it was specifically recognized for the development of innovative simulation-based aviator training. ARI's Simulator Training Research Advanced Testbed for Aviation (STRATA) is the only AH-64 Apache simulator that has all aspects of primary system failure and the backup control system. STRATA also operates the Army's only OH-58D Kiowa Warrior simulator. STRATA provides quick and effective aviator training that will positively impact and improve aviator training and mission readiness, enhance aviator safety, and reduce training costs.

ARI was also recognized for outstanding management achievement for its implementation of activity-based costing. ARI was the first Army R&D laboratory with an approved activity-based costing plan. The model supports transformation decisionmaking, pricing of customer work, and management of in-house research capacity. The model is a tool that provides the laboratory an understanding of the actual costs for R&D work based on the activities used to accomplish the work. In addition, implementation of activity-

based costing increases the laboratory's ability to better estimate the full cost of work performed.

Excellence Award

The recipient of the 2002 RDL Award for Excellence—Large Laboratory Category was the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC), Redstone Arsenal, AL. The mission of AMRDEC is to transform the Army to a more lethal, survivable, flexible, deployable, and affordable Objective Force while reducing its logistical footprint. AMRDEC is recognized for excellence in FY01, specifically for its rapid integration of the HELLFIRE laser-guided missile with the Air Force Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. This gave the Predator the capability to identify, engage, and destroy targets of opportunity on the battlefield. The weaponized Predator has proved to be invaluable in destroying high-value targets while minimizing losses to friendly forces.

In the management arena, AMRDEC is recognized for excellence in 2001 for the collaborative efforts of its National Rotorcraft Technology Center (NRTC). This is an innovative and unique partnership with 3 federal agencies, 13 universities, and 9 principal and supporting members of the rotorcraft industry. NRTC obtains a 4-to-1 leverage of Army dollars using partnership dollars to advance and maintain U.S. supremacy in rotorcraft technology.

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